

# Washington State System Transformation Initiative: *Review of Involuntary Treatment Laws*

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Jenifer Urff, J.D.  
Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.

# System Transformation Initiative

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- Statewide implementation of PACT Teams
- Statewide mental health housing plan (Common Ground)
- Review of mental health benefits package (TriWest)
- Review of involuntary treatment laws (TriWest)
- Utilization Review for psychiatric inpatient services

# Consultant Background

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- Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP)
  - New Freedom Initiative/Olmstead Initiative to promote community integration
- National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) (1998-2003)
  - Government Relations
  - Legal Division/Forensic Division
    - Kansas v. Crane
    - Kendra's Law
    - MacArthur Study on Mental Illness and Violence
    - Olmstead v. L.C.

# Consultant Background (cont.)

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## ■ TriWest Group

- Based in Boulder, CO and Seattle, WA
- Helped Clark County, Thurston-Mason RSNS with RFQ/P
- Involved in numbers child system collaborations in King, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, and Yakima counties
- Experience with Medicaid Benefit Design issues
- Understands Evidence-Based Practices and promising practices, including cross-cultural applications
- Expertise in Medicaid funding

# Overview of Project: Review of Involuntary Treatment Laws

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- Review specific provisions in State involuntary treatment statutes
- Compare specific provisions with other states' approaches
- Identify strengths, challenges, and options for reform

# Context and Focus for Review of Involuntary Treatment Laws

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- MHD's desire to create a recovery-focused, resiliency-based system of care
- Specific focus on issues affecting State hospital utilization:
  - Process for initiating and implementing involuntary civil commitments in Washington State, especially for individuals who are arrested for misdemeanor crimes and are found to be not competent to stand trial
  - “Gravely disabled” definition
  - “Mental disorder” definition

# Other Issues Related to Review of Involuntary Treatment Laws

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- State hospital utilization and lengths of stay
- Age of consent
- Least restrictive alternatives/community service capacity
- Implications for tribal governments

# Process for Review of Involuntary Treatment Laws

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- Literature review/legal research (now underway)
- Stakeholder input (now underway)
  - Task Force meeting (December)
  - Community Forum to collect information from multiple stakeholders (January)
  - Focus groups as needed (December – March)
  - Key informant interviews (January – March)
    - State leaders: consumers, families, community providers, state hospitals, law enforcement, courts, advocates
    - Solicit input from all parts of the State
  - Interviews with national experts
- Comparisons with other states



# Process for Review of Involuntary Treatment Laws (cont.)

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## ■ Reports

- Preliminary Report (February, 2007)
  - Define scope of review
  - Articulate questions/issues presented
  - Discuss literature review
  - Identify states for comparison study
- Draft final report (May, 2007)
- Final Report (June, 2007)

# Project Team for Review of Involuntary Treatment Laws

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- Andy Keller, Ph.D., Project Director (TriWest)
- Jenifer Urff, J.D. (AHP)
- Alan Marzilli, M.A., J.D. (AHP)
- Jenna Ichikawa (TriWest)

# Contact Information

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Jenifer Urff, J.D.

Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.

2 Mechanic Street, Suite 5

Easthampton, MA 01027

(413) 527-0301

[jurff@ahpnet.com](mailto:jurff@ahpnet.com)